

I claim:

1. A spill containment system for containing a hazardous spilled substance from a battery, the spill containment system comprising:

a plurality of containment rail systems, each containment rail system defining an area for housing at least one battery;

a liner placed within the area defined by each of the plurality of containment rail systems to make each containment rail system resistant to damage from spilled substance; and

a material placed within the area of the containment rail system, the material absorbing and chemically neutralizing the spilled substance from the battery so that the hazardous nature of the spilled substance to humans or material structures is reduced.

2. The spill containment system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of containment rail systems are coated with a material that is resistant to damage from the spilled substance.

3. The spill containment system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of containment rail systems are coated with polyvinylchloride.

4. The spill containment system of claim 1 wherein the liner is coated with polyvinylchloride.

5 5. The spill containment system of claim 1 wherein the liner is fabricated out of polyvinylchloride.

10 6. The spill containment system of claim 1 wherein the dimensions of each of the containment rail systems are adjustable.

15 7. The spill containment system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the containment rail systems is invertable between a first and second configuration such that in the first configuration, the exterior surfaces of the containment rail system have no protruding structures and in the second configuration, the exterior surfaces of the containment rail system have protruding structures.

20 8. The spill containment system of claim 1 further comprising a protective member that protects the material from the device.

25 9. The spill containment system of claim 8 wherein the protective member is a grid placed between the device and the

material.

10. The spill containment system of claim 1 further comprising a spill detector that detects whether a spill has
5 occurred.

11. The spill containment system of claim 10 wherein the spill detector indicates whether a spill has occurred.

12. The spill containment system of claim 10 wherein when the spill detector detects that a spill has occurred, the spill detector alerts a second device.

13. The spill containment system of claim 10 wherein the spill detector communicates with a second device when the spill detector detects that a spill has occurred such that the second device performs an act to remedy the spill.

14. The spill containment system of claim 10 wherein the spill detector includes a circuit having an electrical
20 characteristic and a circuit monitor that monitors the electrical characteristic of the circuit and when the electrical characteristic changes appropriately, the circuit monitor determines that a spill has occurred.

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15. The spill containment system of claim 14 wherein the circuit includes a plurality of conductors and the electrical

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characteristic is the amount of current flowing through the plurality of conductors.

16. The spill containment system of claim 10 wherein the
5 spill detector includes:

a permeable membrane through which the spilled substance may pass to contact the circuit; and

a circuit monitor that monitors whether the spilled substance has passed through the permeable membrane.

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~~17.~~ A method for containing a hazardous spilled substance from a battery, the method comprising the steps of:

building a containment system by connecting a plurality
15 of containment rails to form an area of containment on a floor, the area of containment being adapted for housing at least one battery, the containment system having walls rising vertically from the floor;

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stacking a plurality of containment systems on top of one another to form a rack of containment systems;

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providing an insert within the area of containment of each of the plurality of containment systems, the insert being resistant to damage from the spilled substance and making the containment system resistant to damage from the spilled substance;

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providing a material that is capable of absorbing and chemically neutralizing the spilled substance from the battery so that the hazardous nature of the spilled substance to humans or material structures is reduced; and

5 placing the material within the area of containment of each of the plurality of containment systems.

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~~18~~. The method for containing a spilled substance of claim ²⁰~~17~~ further comprising the step of coating the plurality
10 of containment rails with a material that is resistant to damage from the spilled substance.

²²
~~19~~. The method for containing a spilled substance of claim ²⁰~~17~~ wherein the step of providing an insert includes the
15 step of coating the insert with polyvinylchloride.

²³
~~20~~. The method for containing a spilled substance of claim ²⁰~~17~~ wherein the step of providing an insert includes the step of fabricating the insert out of polyvinylchloride.

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~~21~~. The method for containing a spilled substance of claim ²⁰~~17~~ wherein the building step includes the step of adjusting the plurality of containment rails to build a containment system having desired dimensions.

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22. The method for containing a spilled substance of
claim ²⁰~~17~~ wherein the plurality of containment rails are
invertable such that the building step includes the step of
5 building a containment system such that the exterior surfaces
of the containment system have no protruding structures.

²⁶
²³~~23~~. The method for containing a spilled substance of
claim ²⁰~~17~~ wherein the step of placing the material within the
area of containment includes the step placing a protective
member between the material and the device where the
protective member protects the material from the device.

²⁷
24. The method for containing a spilled substance of
15 claim ²⁰~~17~~ further comprising the step of detecting whether a
spill has occurred.

²⁸
²⁵~~25~~. The method for containing a spilled substance of
claim ²⁷~~24~~ further comprising the step of indicating whether a
20 spill has occurred.

²⁹
²⁶~~26~~. The method for containing a spilled substance of
claim ²⁷~~24~~ further comprising the step of alerting a second
device when the step of detecting whether a spill has occurred
25 detects a spill.

³⁰
27. The method for containing a spilled substance of

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Sub A6
claim 24 further comprising the steps of:

communicating with a second device when a spill is
detected; and
remedying the spill.

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~~28.~~ The method for containing a spilled substance of
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claim ~~24~~ wherein the step of detecting a spill includes the
steps of:

providing a circuit having an electrical characteristic;

10 and

monitoring whether the electrical characteristic changes.

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